United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

3101 Park Center Drive

Alexandria, VA 22302-1500

May 6, 2008

Dear Software Industry Executive:

As you know, the twelfth release of the Child Nutrition Database (CN12) is currently available for computer software companies that have either received approval from the Department of Agriculture for their nutrient analysis software or are in the process of becoming USDA-approved. This letter is a follow up to the email announcement for CN12 sent to the software developers in January. This letter contains important information related to the approved software that was **not** included in the email announcement.

First, **USDA-approved software companies are required to submit their CN12 updated software to the software evaluation coordinator by no later than May 30, 2008.** The twelfth release can be downloaded from the Healthy Meals Resource System (HMRS) website at: http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/cndatabase.html. This web location also includes the System Components and File Formats document that defines the structural design of the CN12 database. All Standard Reference (SR) 20 updates have been applied to the SR products included in this release.

Software programs currently approved by USDA must be submitted with each new release of the CN Database, usually annually, within 90 days of the date the new release is made available at the HMRS website. Approved programs also must undergo a more in-depth resubmission evaluation every two to four years, as scheduled by the software evaluation team consisting of the software evaluation coordinator and multiple software evaluators.

For new programs, the software evaluation team first completes a preliminary checklist evaluation that the program must pass before the software evaluation team moves into a full evaluation. New programs must be evaluated with the current version of the CN Database before the program can be approved.

Second, we would like to announce the availability of the support documents for software approved by USDA for Nutrient Standard Menu Planning (NSMP), including the specifications and requirements, at the HMRS website at: http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/softwaresupport.html. The materials formerly sent in the printed packet from FNS have been reorganized at this online location; some have been revised. Old documents and letters related to the software evaluation project will be included in a historical section in the future.

Over the past several years, changes to the specifications and requirements have been sent to developers in the letters announcing the availability each release of the CN

Database. The software evaluation coordinator has compiled the changes into one document, "***Changes to the Specifications and Requirements for Software Approved by USDA for Use with Nutrient Standard Menu Planning (NSMP) from 1999 – 2007."*** This document will be posted with the other support documents at the HMRS website.

Third, we have changed the requirement related to conversions to fluid ounce, liter and milliliter. Software developers must only provide fluid ounce as a unit of measure if a conversion is found in the Weights file of the CN Database or is added locally by the user or developer. Software developers may **not** make global conversions to the fluid ounce measure. We will continue to recommend that the same guideline is followed for liter and milliliter. Although we recommend using weight measures for dry ingredients, we will allow developers to make global conversions to liter and milliliter due to use of these measures for dry goods in a metric kitchen.

Fourth, it has been brought to our attention that the regulations for school lunch and school breakfast (CFR 210.10 and 220.8) include nutrient standards that were not part of the original requirements for the approved software programs. These standards include standards for breakfast for preschool; age 2; and ages 3, 4, 5 and lunch for preschool; grades 4-12; and ages 3-4. Software developers are encouraged to include these standards, but are not required to do so. These standards are listed under Nutrient Standards, Optional Nutrient Standards at the HMRS website at: http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/softwaresupport.html and are also enclosed.

Fifth, several developers have asked if we will be updating the spreadsheet that accompanies the recipe guidance document. This spreadsheet will not be updated. The purpose of the spreadsheet was to provide the developers with the foods that were used to analyze the USDA recipes for the CN Database and to match the nutrient analysis of the production recipes at: http://www.nfsmi.org/Information/school_recipe_index_alpha.html. The spreadsheet also serves as a guide to the types of foods that must be entered to show "as consumed" nutrient values using the Yield Factor Method of Analysis. More information can be found in the updated "tips" portion of the spreadsheet document at: http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/softwaresupport.html.

Last, we are asking software companies to explore alternate means of providing their software programs to the software evaluation coordinator. Due to the increasing number of programs, the software evaluation coordinator has experienced significant hardware problems over the past year resulting in the need to acquire new hardware. We are asking developers to work with the software evaluation coordinator to determine how your program should be provided. Any software program that may conflict with the operation of other software or related programs, such as SQL Server, should be provided on a loaned laptop. Other alternatives include providing web

access to the software program and storing data for the evaluation on a company server. The software evaluation coordinator does have a new laptop with a partitioned hard drive and will be installing some of the approved programs for the next round of evaluations. Your cooperation with this change is appreciated.

As a reminder, we ask that USDA-approved software developers notify Tim Vázquez at (703) 305-2609, as soon as possible if your software users will not be provided with updated versions of the software which reflect the new CN12 database by the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Tim is also available to answer any questions you may have about CN12. Once updated, please send a copy of your programs to Natalie Partridge, 66 Penrose Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089. Remember to discuss your method of providing the software with Natalie before sending the software. You may contact Natalie at: npartridge@nal.usda.gov or 413-739-3563.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

CYNTHIA LONG
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Enclosure

Additional Nutrient Standards for Specific Grade and Age Ranges That Software Developers May Provide in the Software Approved by USDA for Nutrient Standard Menu Planning (NSMP)

These age and grade ranges were published in the *Code of Federal Regulations* for School Breakfast and School Lunch, but are not part of the specifications and requirements for approved software. Software Developers may choose to provide these additional nutrient standards to their users.

Chart 1. Nutrient Standards for Breakfast – By Grade

Nutrients	**Preschool**
CALORIES	388
PROTEIN (g)	5
IRON (mg)	2.5
CALCIUM (mg)	200
VITAMIN A (RE)	113
VITAMIN C (mg)	11
FAT (g)[1]	
SATURATED FAT (g)[2]	

Chart 2. Nutrient Standards for Breakfast – By Age

Nutrients	**Age 2**	**Ages 3, 4, 5**
CALORIES	325	388
PROTEIN (g)	4	5
IRON (mg)	2.5	2.5
CALCIUM (mg)	200	200
VITAMIN A (RE)	100	113
VITAMIN C (mg)	10	11
FAT (g)[1]		
SATURATED FAT (g)[2]		

[1] Not to exceed 30 percent over a school week.
[2] Less than 10 percent over a school week.

Chart 3. Nutrient Standards for Lunch – By Grade

Nutrients	Preschool	Grades 4-12
CALORIES	517	785
PROTEIN (g)	7	15
IRON (mg)	3.3	4.2
CALCIUM (mg)	267	370
VITAMIN A (RE)	150	285
VITAMIN C (mg)	14	17
FAT (g)[1]		
SATURATED FAT (g)[2]		

Chart 4. Nutrient Standards for Lunch – By Age

Nutrients	Ages 3-4 (Preschool)
CALORIES	517
PROTEIN (g)	7
IRON (mg)	3.3
CALCIUM (mg)	267
VITAMIN A (RE)	150
VITAMIN C (mg)	14
FAT (g)[1]	
SATURATED FAT (g)[2]	

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[1] Not to exceed 30 percent over a school week.
[2] Less than 10 percent over a school week.